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2,000 march on King day

By The Associated Press

MEMPHIS — Civil rights hymns from the 1960s rang out again in downtown Memphis on Tuesday as 2,000 people marched on the 10th anniversary of the slaying of Martin Luther King Jr.

Led by a platoon of religious, labor and political figures, the march began under sunny skies at the old Clayborn Temple AME Church where King spoke and led striking sanitation workers on a march a week before he was shot.

Singing "We Shall Overcome" and "Amen," the marchers trudged first to the Lorraine Motel, where King was gunned down from a balcony by a sniper's bullet.

Two motorcycle policemen preceded the parade. Police guarded every intersection, but the officers were there only to direct traffic, obviously not expecting the type of disorder that broke out 10 years ago when King led his last march.

In Gadsden, Ala., about 1,000 people marched in observance of the assassination anniversary and in protest over the police shooting of a black man. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was among those taking part in the march to the county courthouse.

The Alabama marchers were calling for the suspension of six policemen involved in the shooting of 27-year-old Collis Madden on Jan. 20.

In Atlanta, Coretta Scott King, the civil rights leader's widow, Martin Luther King Sr. and other members of the family took part in the traditional laying of a floral wreath at King's tomb during a brief ceremony at Ebenezer Baptist Church.

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